IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following paragraph at Page 2, line 3:

-- **Reference to Related Applications**

This application is a continuation-in-part of copending United States Application No. 09/832,437, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING AN ELECTRONIC AUCTION DURING THE TRANSITION TO A CLOSED STATE", filed April 11, 2001, previously assigned to the assignee of the present application, FreeMarkets, Inc. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 9-37 as follows:

9.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) comprises the step of displaying a tie rank to the bidder if the ranking in step (b) results in a tie.

10.   (Amended)   A computer program product for enabling a processor in a computer system to process bidding information in an electronic auction, amongst a plurality of bidders, said computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for causing an application program to execute on the computer system, said computer readable program code means comprising

a computer readable program code means for enabling the computer system to receive a plurality of bids from bidders, rank said bids in order of attractiveness, and for each bid, display the rank to the bidder who made the bid.

11.   (Amended)   The computer program product of claim 10, further comprising computer readable program code means for enabling the computer system to determine an ordinal rank for each bid that is displayed to the bidder.